



Frequently Asked Questions about Oseltamivir



What is oseltamivir?

- ▶ Oseltamivir is a medication that attacks the influenza (flu) virus and stops it from spreading inside your body. It is used for treating adults and children with the flu whose symptoms started within the last 48 hours.
- ▶ Oseltamivir is also used to reduce the chance of getting the flu if there is a flu outbreak or if you have been exposed to someone who has the flu.



Should I get a flu shot?

Yes, you should continue to receive a flu shot every year, according to your health care provider's advice. Receiving a flu shot every year is the best way to protect against and control the spread of the flu. Oseltamivir does not take the place of getting a flu shot (vaccination).



Who should not take oseltamivir?

- ▶ Do not take oseltamivir if you are allergic to its ingredients.
- ▶ Before starting treatment, make sure your health care provider knows if you take any other medicines or are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- ▶ Tell your health care provider if you have any type of kidney disease, heart disease, respiratory disease or any serious health condition.



How should I take oseltamivir?

It is important that you begin taking oseltamivir as soon as possible from the start of your flu symptoms or soon after you are exposed to the flu.

Your healthcare provider will tell you how to take oseltamivir. It is important that you take it exactly as your healthcare provider prescribes.

- ▶ **To prevent the flu:** Take oseltamivir once a day for as long as prescribed. Follow your health care provider's advice on how long to take oseltamivir.



What if I miss a dose?

- ▶ If you forget to take your medicine, take the missed dose as soon as you remember except if it is 2 hours or less before your next dose. Then continue to take oseltamivir at the usual times.
- ▶ Do not take 2 doses at a time to make up for a missed dose. If you miss several doses, talk with your health care provider for advice.



What are some possible side effects of oseltamivir?

Although rare, the most common side effect of oseltamivir is an upset stomach, nausea and vomiting. An upset stomach is usually mild to moderate and happens in the first 2 days of treatment. Taking oseltamivir with food may reduce the chance of getting these side effects.

Other side effects include:

- ▶ fatigue (very tired)
- ▶ dizziness and vertigo (trouble with balance)
- ▶ respiratory infections (cough and runny nose)
- ▶ headaches
- ▶ insomnia (can't sleep)

If your flu symptoms do not start to get better, you develop new symptoms, you begin having any side effects not mentioned above, or if you have any concerns about the side effects you get while taking oseltamivir, talk with your health care provider.



How and where should I store oseltamivir?

- ▶ Oseltamivir capsules should be stored at room temperature below 25°C (77°F) and kept in a dry place. Keep this medication out of reach of children.

Use the liquid suspension within 17 days after reconstitution, refrigerate the suspension (36 to 46 degree Fahrenheit), do not freeze.